(c) if not, when Government propose to open the dialogue with China for this purpose; and

(d) what other steps are contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The two sides are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question (JWG). The Eleventh Meeting of the JWG was held in Beijing on April 26-27, 1999. India and China have reiterated the objective of seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through dialogue. Both sides have also reiterated their commitment to maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

Establishment of US Foreign Commercial Service Office at Hyderabad

1564. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state that the action taken to clear early the proposal for establishment of US foreign commercial service office at Hyderabad to quicken business activity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): The US Government had requested opening of Foreign Commercial Service Offices in some Indian cities, including Hyderabad. The Government considers all proposals taking into account ovedrall Indo-US commercial relations, reciprocity and the volume of business in suggested locations. Decisions in respect of opening of such offices in Bangalore, Pune and Ahmedabad have already been conveyed. About Hyderabad the matter is under the active consideration of the Government.

India's Readiness to Sign the CTBT

1565. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported comment of U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright in